

Serial No.

- 2 -

Art Unit:

storing the generated group address in the address table,  
whereby a plurality of addresses are represented by a single group address entry  
in the address table.

2. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of addresses comprises at least one X.121 address.

3. (previously amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said storing step includes the further step of generated group address in an address configuration table.

4. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of addresses comprises at least one MAC address.

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of using the regular expression to specify at least one address of an address pool.

7. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said storing step includes the further step of storing the generated group address in a management information base.

8. (currently amended) A network device operative to communicate with a plurality of other network devices, each having at least one address, comprising:

circuitry operative to ~~identify commonality between the addresses associated with the other network devices,~~ select at least one regular expression character having a predetermined meaning which represents the identified commonality between the at least one character of each addresses, and generate a single address that represents the addresses by inserting the selected at

Serial No.

- 3 -

Art Unit:

least one regular expression character in place of at the least one ~~corresponding~~ character of the plurality of addresses, thereby generating a group address; and

a storage for storing the generated group address, whereby a plurality of addresses are represented by a single address entry in said storage.

9. (original) The network device of claim 8, wherein the storage comprises an address configuration table.

10. (previously amended) The network device of claim 9, wherein the regular expression character defines a source address group.

11. (original) The network device of claim 8, wherein the storage comprises a management information base.

12. (previously amended) The network device of claim 11, wherein the regular expression character defines an address pool.

13. (original) The network device of claim 8, wherein the storage comprises a routing table.

14. (previously amended) The network device of claim 11, wherein the regular expression character defines a forwarding equivalence class for a routing table entry.

15. (currently amended) An address configuration table for mapping a plurality of source devices in a source network to a single destination device in a destination network, the address configuration table comprising:

at least one entry representative of a plurality of addresses, said entry having at least one regular expression character in place of ~~corresponding~~ characters in the plurality of addresses, said entry being generated by ~~identifying commonality between the plurality of~~

Serial No.

- 4 -

Art Unit:

~~addresses,~~ selecting at least one regular expression character having a predetermined meaning which represents ~~the identified commonality between the~~ at least one character in each ~~addresses,~~ inserting the selected at least one regular expression character in place of ~~the~~ at least one ~~corresponding~~ character of the plurality of addresses, and storing the generated group address in the address table.

16. (currently amended) A management information base comprising:

a management object for storing at least one entry representative of a plurality of addresses, said entry having at least one regular expression character in place of ~~corresponding~~ characters in the plurality of addresses, said entry being generated by ~~identifying commonality between the plurality of addresses,~~ selecting at least one regular expression character having a predetermined meaning which represents ~~the identified commonality between the~~ at least one character in each ~~addresses,~~ inserting the selected at least one regular expression character in place of ~~the~~ at least one ~~corresponding~~ character of the plurality of addresses, and storing the generated group address in the address table.